

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 of the specification, please amend the paragraph as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

*a* This application ~~is based on~~ claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to Patent Application No. 2001-31467 filed February 7, 2001 in Japan, the content of which is incorporated hereinto by reference.